

## *Flower Beds Once Dotted the Cemetery Grounds*

Springtime beckons us to spend time outside and look at ways we can add a bit of beauty to our surroundings; perhaps we plant some flowers, sew some seeds, add some trees to the landscape or reseed the lawn. Likewise, Memorial Society members through the years have undertaken a variety of projects to beautify the cemetery grounds.

In the spring of 1924, members agreed that flower beds would add beauty and color to the cemetery entrance. Mrs. Butts, Mrs. Bockhorst, Mrs. Heidtman and Mrs. Krome were named to the committee to make the new beds. (Unfortunately, the first names of these women are not given in the meeting minutes.)

In the following years, members expanded the number of flower beds, and many more women volunteered to help plant and care for the beds. Flowers were planted at the bridge, around the pond (a small pond was once located at the northeast corner of Block 2), around the tool shed and near the "new addition" (most likely Block 5).

Members agreed bulbs and flower seeds should be planted. While the exact varieties are not given, it is likely the women planted dahlias, cannas, lilies and gladiolas, and sewed zinnia, cleome and marigold seeds. The bulbs and seeds were likely all donated by the members from their own flower beds. In the fall, the women gathered seeds from the dried flowers, dug the bulbs and stored them in their homes for the winter so they could be replanted the following year.

The annual planting of flowers continued through the 1930's.

Some of the flowers Society members planted years ago continue to bring beauty to the cemetery. This summer as you pass by the walk bridge, please notice the bright orange day lilies. Clumps of day lilies were discovered a few years back when current Society members removed the poison ivy that covered the area around and under the bridge. Those lilies are now thriving once again under the summer sun.